TO LOCATE IN BELGAUM:- SECRET & PERSONAL.

2nd Inf Bde
Ind Fd Regt
A.T.Coy
G.T.Coy
Ind Inf Wksp Coy

Mahratta L.I. Training Centre. To maintain 5 or 6 Active Bns and to be able to handle Reservists and a Territorial Bn.
Ind Inf Bn (I.S.)
One Large School
Requisite Hospital and
Supply Depot.

1. The accommodation available consists of:-

a. Permanent buildings.
b. High grade hutted accommodation.
c. Low grade hutted accommodation.

The existing permanent buildings are of stone and although oldfashioned are structurally sound; have an almost unlimited life.

The high grade hutted accommodation is good but limited; and the large amount of low grade hutted accommodation is generally of bad quality and in poor condition. A detailed engineer survey of this low grade hutted accommodation will be essential in order to determine the maintenance required to render it habitable or whether indeed it is possible economically so to do. Much of this low grade accommodation has little life left in it.

2. Taking into account all of the three types of building mentioned in para 1, accommodation will still not be available for the following units:-

Ind Fd Regt
Ind Inf Bn
A.T.Coy

Therefore these three units could not be located in BELGAUM until considerable building has been undertaken.

3, It has been assumed that the R.A.F. accommodation at SAMBRE east of BELGAUM will be available for the army and these buildings have been included in the appreciation of accommodation.

4. Therefore, a large building commitment will be necessary before the suggested garrison can be located in BELGAUM. This postulates the phasing of any scheme to house in BELGAUM a garrison of the strength envisaged.

5. A statement of all permanent and high and low grade hutted accommodation available, whatever its condition, to show the allotment of the total assumed garrison and a summary is contained in Appendix A. This appendix also includes suggestions for the siting of the units (see para 2) for which no accommodation exists.

This information is illustrated on a map (Appendix B).

6. All existing or proposed lines are on military land with the following exceptions:-

a. NAGZEERA lines (serial 7) only partly on military land.
b. SAMBRE main lines, the airstrip extension and B site (serials 15, 16 and 17), which it is proposed should accommodate two Ind Inf Bns and an A.T.Coy.
c. AMBEWADI SPUR (serial 18) proposed for Ind Fd Regt.

All the sites are grazing areas and should be neither difficult nor expensive to acquire.

7. No account has been taken of family accommodation, but assuming that a liberal scale will be provided for all ranks much building will be necessary, as all that exists is a meagre allotment in existing permanent lines and bungalows adequate for a garrison much smaller than is envisaged.

8. It is considered that excellent training areas exist all round BELGAUM, but in respect of most of the lines suggested the ground is not immediately adjacent to the barracks; in fact much of the country adjacent is irrigated, arable land. Comd 170 Sub Area has particularly stressed this point, which in the circumstances is not considered of much weight especially as the plan proposed is to locate two bns at SAMBRE which is not surrounded by irrigated crops.

9. Comd 170 Sub Area also considers that to locate the I.S. Bn in SANDHURST lines (serials 5 and 6) will congest the MAHRATTA LIGHT INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE; but this is not agreed.

10. WATER SUPPLY.

The present water supply is scarcely adequate for the existing garrison. There is a proposal by the Civil Government to instal a new dam on the MALKANDERA river, in which project they wish the Army to participate. If this were done there would be no shortage. SAMBRE has a good supply pumped from local wells.

11. HOSPITAL.

The strength of the garrison envisaged is about 8000 (1500 British and 6500 Indian troops), for which 75 British and 300 Indian beds would be required. The existing C.M.H. could easily be converted to this scale and provide for some crisis expansion.

12. It might be better to interchange the Br. Inf Bn (serial 8) with the School (serials 9 and 10). A decision must depend on the type of school required.